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Extensions of country programmes in the Arab States, Europe and Central Asia Region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Lebanon and the Sudan.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for extensions for a second year or two-year extensions are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the one-year country programme extensions for Lebanon and the Sudan, as indicated in the attached table.

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One-year extensions of country programmes approved by the Executive Director

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Reason and Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other Issues
Lebanon	2002-2006	2007	In view of the situation in Lebanon and its effect on the work of the United Nations system, particularly the Executive Committee agencies of the United Nations Development Group, the United Nations country team and its principal national counterpart, the Council for Development and Reconstruction, decided to extend the present United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) by one year, through 2007. A new UNDAF will be prepared for the period 2008-2012.	From the beginning of 2005, there have been four successive changes of Government. This was considered a major constraint for engaging government counterparts in initiating and implementing the common country assessment (CCA)/UNDAF process. In addition, the security situation and political turmoil throughout 2005 added to the delays caused by the change of Government. While the United Nations country team had embarked on the preparatory work to initiate the CCA/UNDAF process in January 2005, it was only in August of 2005, following the formation of the present Government and the adoption by parliament of the Council of Ministers' policy platform, with its comprehensive priority reform agenda, that the United Nations country team could resume its role in initiating the CCA process.	The current country programme provides an adequate framework for all UNFPA-supported projects in Lebanon given its alignment with the government policy statement. The programme may therefore be extended by one year.

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Reason and explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Sudan	2002-2006	2007	In view of the changing situation in the country, the United Nations country team decided that the present UNDAF should be extended to cover 2007 and that a new UNDAF should be prepared for 2008-2011.	On 9 January 2005, the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Sudan People's Liberation Army signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Following the peace agreement, a joint assessment mission developed a framework that provides a road map for recovery and development. However, humanitarian needs continue to arise in many parts of the country. By the end of the pre-interim period (9 July 2005), the Government had approved the interim national constitution.	The current country programme provides an adequate framework to implement UNFPA projects and activities in response to emerging needs. UNFPA, as the lead partner with national entities in conducting the national census, has positioned itself to play an active role in the census process. UNFPA has also been selected as the lead coordination agency in combating gender-based violence. UNFPA is strengthening its programme operations in Southern Sudan in line with the new opportunities brought about by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.